Building Your Own Computer

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Though we all live with inflation, computers and computing power have fallen exponentially in price since they were introduced. In the 1950s, a computer would fill a large room, generate enormous heat, and would be beyond the pocket of all but the super-rich, large corporations or governments. Today, ordinary people walk around with devices in their pockets that can perform advanced calculations, translate languages, take high quality photographs and videos, then publish them to the world in a few minutes.

Having said that, a desktop computer can be a major investment for someone who is unemployed or on a low income in this age of manufactured austerity. What is the best way to buy?

The first question you should ask youself is you need to acquire a new machine? Acquire being the operative word, because if you are not chasing something state of the art, you might be able to pick up one for nothing from Freecycle or Freegle. If you can’t pick up a whole machine from one of them, you might be able to find a free auxiliary or two, like a scanner.

For some time in the UK, there have been government schemes run mostly at a local level to assist people to get on-line or for those on low incomes to purchase machines at bargain basement prices. Again, if you don't need the latest model and don't mind a refurbished machine, check out one of these. Other countries will vary.

If money is not a problem or even if it is, check out a local store like Tech House.This particular company also offers bargain basement refurbished laptops. The main advantage of a custom built machine is it can be tailored to your personal specifications, and may even save you money. Keeping it local has another advantage; if you have a problem at any time, a faulty connection perhaps, and can't work out what is happening, or perhaps a new software program keeps crashing *Windows*, you have help close at hand.

Before you upgrade or consider a serious new hardware investment, check out the local options; wherever you live, you'll be surprised what you can find right on your doorstep.

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